

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/849,304

Examiner

Scott A. Schlack

Applicant(s)

YADA, JUNYA

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the after-final amendment filed 10/13/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 8,9 and 14.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

KAW Williams
KATHRYN WILLIAMS
SUPERVISOR OF EXAMINERS

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's after-final amendment was received on 10/21/2006, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, claims **8, 9** and **14** are pending. The examiner notes that the applicant has elected to cancel claims **1, 3-7, 10-13** and **15-18**.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims **8, 9** and **14** are allowed.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The examiner notes that the independent claim features warranting allowability are listed as follows:

A command data conversion device for use in a printing system, comprising: a processor that receives multiple image data sets corresponding to multiple inks used in the printing system and performs prescribed processing; a counter that counts a number of the image data sets received by the processor; and ink color data registers that store multiple ink color data indexes indicating which of multiple inks is to be used, and into which the multiple ink color data indexes may be written at least when the command data conversion device is manufactured, and wherein the processor generates data by adding to each of the image data sets a corresponding one of the ink color data indexes stored in the registers in accordance with a value of the counter when each of the image data sets is received.

The examiner notes that most relevant cited art is Maeda et al. (US 5,899,614) and Ando (EP 0945780). Maeda discloses an output apparatus comprising a substituting circuit for substituting discrimination information to be changed in

Art Unit: 2625

accordance with the input of instruction information, and a command table of an output unit which can be rewritten at execution time. Ando discloses a printer control circuit capable of converting control commands pertaining to color printing and sending said data to a printer. In this print command communication process RGB color data is converted to CMYK raster data and stored in buffer memory at the control circuit before being sent to a printer.

Neither Maeda nor Ando disclose a device with a counter that counts a number of the image data sets received by the processor; and ink color data registers that store multiple ink color data indexes indicating which of multiple inks is to be used, and into which the multiple ink color data indexes may be written at least when the command data conversion device is manufactured, and wherein the processor generates data by adding to each of the image data sets a corresponding one of the ink color data indexes stored in the registers in accordance with a value of the counter when each of the image data sets is received.

Therefore, the examiner views the applicant's invention to be patentably distinct over the cited references.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2625

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott A. Schlack whose telephone number is (571)272-7954. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams can be reached on (571)272-7471. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Scott A. Schlack



KIMBERLY A. WILLIAMS
SUPERVISOR AND EXAMINER